

TAPE III

Taped interviews with Tom Gibson and different people from the Hall Bldg.; February 18, 1982.

Tom: O.K. Well I'd like you to just ~~xxxxxxx~~
~~xx~~ look at these
photographs and just tell me exactly what you
think. The first one there.. You could describe
the photograph if you want.

André (engineering student); O.K. ah, looking
at the first photograph, it seems to me that the
guys entering the building. It's ah, pretty
quiet down there, everything seems to be just
normal.

Tom: Is that an interesting photograph? Is there
anything interesting about it?

André: It's not really an interesting photograph
as such.

Tom: So you don't care for that photograph.

André: No, it's not to my liking. No.

Tom: O.K. Why don't you turn the page and
look at another. What about that one there, the o
one with the man in the fur coat.

André: There's not too much that can be said
about the photograph as such.

Tom: So that's like the first one you saw?

Andre: Oh, it's pretty much the same. It doesn't seem to portray anything special as such. I mean, he's just standing there looking at the paper and ah..

Tom: You don't find that interesting at all, to observe people in that way.

andre: No

Tom: Alright, what about the one next to that?

Andre: You know it's pretty much like the first one. From the way he's dressed you see that he's pretty much a business man as such.

Tom: You don't find these photographs very interesting at all eh. They aren't the kind of photographs that you would make.

André: Oh no. Myself, you know I like a picture of things in nature as such. in contrast with pictures of people. You know I wouldn't mind photographing people, but I like candid photos you know. Doing some kind of action, doing something strange.

Tom: Alright, so turn the page. What do you think?

Andre: The photograph on the left that you've taken at a wedding. It seems to me to be quite interesting. Ah, the coloured guy, it seems to be that he's been caught off guard, or whatever.

Tom: You find that an interesting photograph. More spontaneous.

Andre: Oh yes. More spontaneous. It's more held together, better seen. You know, it depicts a happy scene, as such.

Tom: What about the guy who's looking at the camera. Doesn't he look a little bit surprised or aggressive?

André: Oh yes it seems to me that he's completely surprised. Curious.

Tom: It seems a little bit out of focus. Not sharp.

André: Ya, it's not sharp as such

Tom: So you like that one. What about the one next to it. The one with the girl walking towards and the man walking away with a pole in between

André: It doesn't seem to represent so much.

Tom: When you photograph, what do you photograph?

André: ~~Repp~~ People mostly. You know I photograph people sometimes, but you know it's mostly, I don't know it's a mostly nature.

Tom: Animauxes? Well, there's little animals on her sweater. Elephants.

André: Oh yes, quite true

Tom: And there's an animal on the back of his sweater. A pheasant, I think.

André: As I said before I take photographs of more natural stuff. It seems to me that animals ah.. you never could tell their reaction. You never could tell what's gonna happen. You know with people if you tell them you're gonna take a photograph they would react a certain way.

Tom: Isn't that interesting?

André: Oh yes it is

Tom: But you prefer animals?

André: Yes I prefer things in nature

Tom: You mean what animals?

André: It could be wild animals. Tigers, monkeys

If I'm near monkeys, let's say gorillas are very interesting to photograph.

Tom: Ya, but we don't have much opportunity to photograph monkeys and gorillas in North America.

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(talks about Asilomar photo, Dog, and Bldg, flowers and people)

Tom: O.K. I've got some photographs here. I'd like you just to look at these photographs. Start with the one on your left and give me a response as to what you think about that photo.

Woman from the Information Desk at the Hall Bldg: Somebody didn't care too much to get his picture taken I guess.

Tom: That's the one with the wedding, eh?
Any good?

Woman: No. Not to me.

Tom: Why?

Woman: Well, a wedding you know should be a happy scene, but this doesn't look like it's a

happy scene. Seems like something wrong happened. The bride is hiding her face and she's holding her head and the guy is looking back and he's got a worried look on his face. The groom doesn't seem to be happy either.

Tom: So you wouldn't think that's a proper type of wedding photograph.

Woman: No

Tom: It's not the type of wedding photograph that you like to see. Do you think it's an interesting photograph apart from the problem with the bride and not looking like a wedding photograph?

Woman: It doesn't seem right. I don't know, is this an arm sticking out her?

Tom: Could be.

Woman: Whoever took the photograph isn't a very good photographer. I take better pictures. As far as the centering is (concerned) it's O.K. But, I wouldn't put that in an album.

Tom: You wouldn't put it in an album. What do you think about putting it in a book?

Woman: Not even

Tom: No. Alright, what about the next picture.

Woman: That's no good either. People's back, I mean who wants to see. There's no story to the picture. She looks like she's running from something, that's all. Morbid looking.

Tom: Morbid. When you say story, what do you mean by story?

Woman: Well, I mean, normally when you take a picture, there's a reason. You see somebody looking at a beautiful scene, but here I mean you see people's backs. They're looking at something but you don't know what. So you don't know the purpose of the picture.

Tom: The girl is looking towards the front.

Woman: She' seems to be worried about something too. I don't know, everything looks like there's something dreadful that happened in the picture

Tom: So a photograph should be happy.

Woman: She seems to be more or less running away from a situation

Tom: O.K. Why don't you turn the page.

Woman: That's nicer. Calm

Tom: The one with the tree

Woman: It's serene, it's calm. There's nobody with a look of fear or anything.

Tom: What~~x~~ makes it calm?

Woman: It's peaceful looking.

Tom: Why?

Woman: Like I said there's no people with a worried look on their face. It's calm. It look like it's a nice sunny place where there's no wind. It's a place where you could just sit and relax and forget everything. It looks like it's by the sea as well. So again, it entices you to just sit back and relax.

Tom: The next one.

Woman: That too is nice.

Tom: Why don't you describe that one?

Woman: Nice couple looking out at the view. They could be on their honey moon. They're obviously in a tower or something looking down at the view. Altho the scene below is not so clear, you can imagine ;w what it is It's not bad.

Tom: Not bad, O.K. Next one.

Woman: Not so good that one

Tom: That's the one with the museum.

Woman: Well if they wanted to show the museum, why not show the museum, a better view of it now, it's hidden all by these plants and flowers and little old ladies reading their magazines

Tom: Don't you think that's interesting, the plants and flowers and ladies.

Woman: Oh, they're beautiful. But if they wanted to show the museum, why not show the museum, a better view of it.

Tom: What if the photographer wanted to show the flowers and the museum?

Woman: He could have taken it at a different angle I suppose.

Tom: To see more of the building itself.

Woman: Well, yes, and it's crooked too

Tom: It's crooked. And what about the ladies in the corner.

Woman: They don't belong

Tom: They don't add anything to the photograph?

Woman: Nothing at all. On the contrary, they take

away from a nice scene. If they were looking at the

building or looking at the flowers, it would be different. But they're just sitting there looking at magazines or papers.

Tom: O.K. The next one.

Woman: It doesn't do anything for me at all either. First there's too many shadows...of the buildings and there's a big shadow over the dog. And it's not even scenic. Doesn't do a thing for me.

Tom: Can't find anything good about that photograph. Woman: No. Nothing at all. I'm glad the photographer's not here.

Tom: So am I. We can really cut him up together Woman: Uh-huh.

Tom: That one the last one there, the one with the fence.

Woman: Nope, it doesn't do nothing. If I were a jailbird, I'd think I was behind bars or something. Tom: I wonder why he'd photograph that?

Woman: I wonder. Because it's.. I find it..not boring...it's just a downer.

Tom: It's a downer and photographers should be uppers. Woman: Yes, it should be pleasant to look at.

Normally that's why people take pictures because they want to remember something pleasant. Anyway that's the way I do it.

Tom: O.K. Why don't you just go back through the photographs and tell me any further responses.

Woman: I didn't see this one. No. Again it's not well uh...I take better pictures and I'm not a professional. Shadows and you just see a silhouette of a person. O.K. Shabby against luxurious

Tom: You said photos should recall a pleasant memory. What about recording an event?

Woman: Oh sure. But I'm not the type to ..If I see a catastrophe, I don't like to take pictures of it. ...Slums are a fact of everyday like

Tom: But you don't want to see it?

Woman: No I'm an ostrich. Hide my head underneath the sand.

...

Tom: Do you look at photographs a lot?

Woman: Oh yes. At home in family albums, magazines ...FIN.